Def-1 - USS Liberty (222)

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 508

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3456

USS LIBERTY CLAIMS

REF: STATE 138790

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ELIZUR, DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MFA SEPT 3, CHARGE NOTED THAT USG AWAITS RESPONSE FROM GOI TO OUR CLAIM MADE IN JULY 1968 FOR DAMAGE TO USS LIBERTY, INDICATED WE DID NOT INSIST ON WRITTEN REPLY IN FIRST INSTANCE, BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE ORAL COMMENTS FROM GOI.

2. ELIZUR SAID GOI HAD HOPED, IN VIEW OF RAPID AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL OTHER LIBERTY CLAIMS, THAT USG WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING REDUCTION OF CLAIM FOR VESSEL DAMAGE. CHARGE SAID USG WAS NOT TAKING SUCH INITIATIVE, BUT FELT SOME RESPONSE FROM GOI WAS NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS.

3. ELIZUR NOTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL BITAN WILL BE IN WASHINGTON WITH MRS. MEIR LATER THIS MONTH, AND THAT HE MIGHT DESIRE TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH ~~DEPARTMENT~~ AT THAT TIME. GP-3.
ZURHELLEN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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